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SURVEY OF TURKEY'S BALIKESIR PROVINCE

Comment: The following report is a summary of one of a series of surveys of Turkish provinces published in special weekly supplements of the Istanbul daily newspaper Vatan.

Mining

Mining is an important industry of Balikesir. Rich iron veins have been found at Eymir (Edremit District) and Karanayid (Ayvalik District). Various minerals, including manganese and argentiferous lead, have been found on Mount Kazdag. In Ivrindi District, antimony exists in Korucu Subdistrict, and manganese, in the villages of Ovanboyinder and Kalburcu.

Lignite deposits are numerous in the districts of Balya, Susurluk, and Gonen. Boraxite is being produced at Faras village (Bigadic District), while other deposits have been discovered at the village of Kalfa in Susurluk District, and in the Duvertepe Subdistrict of Sindirgi District. There are four boraxite mines in the vicinity of the village of Sultancayiri in Susurluk District; three are worked by private individuals, while a British company has a concession for the fourth.

Deposits of lignite, chrome, and manganese are known to exist within the boundaries of Dursunbey District, and beds of iron, argentiferous lead, and lignite in the districts of Gonen, Balya and Manyas. Until 1942, the argentiferous lead deposit at Balya was worked by a foreign concern; activities were then suspended, and the Decauville track running from there to Akcay wharf was torn up as far as Palamutluk Station.

To date, the governor's office has received more than 1,000 applications for mineral exploration.

Olive Industry

Olive growing is perhaps the major industry in the province. Excluding an estimated 50 million wild trees, Turkey has 30 million olive trees, of which 4 million are in Balikesir province, chiefly in the districts of Ayvalik,

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Edremit, and Burhaniye. However, one third of the country's olive oil production comes from this area. The production would be even greater, were it not for outmoded methods of production and lack of knowledge on the part of the peasants.

Steps are being taken in the area to wipe out the olive moth, known locally as *kaligoris*, which annually destroys 30 million kilograms of olives worth at least 60 million lira. Ayvalik District presents a good example of olive grove ownership. According to tax registers, the district has 791,962 trees owned by 3,704 producers; 2,862 individuals own between 50 and 100 trees each for a total of 260,397 trees, 534 own between 100 and 500 each for a total of 176,709 trees, 187 own between 500 and 1,000 each for a total of 139,619, and 112 own more than 1,000 each for a total of 215,237.

#### Forests

The province is divided into four exploitation areas: Balikesir, 217,110 hectares; Dursunbey, 97,220 hectares; Sindirgi, 80,500 hectares; and Bandirma 76,027 hectares. Of this amount of 470,857 hectares, only 202,472 hectares are productive. Fifty percent consists of Scotch fir trees, 14 percent of spruce, 19 percent of oak, and 17 percent of beech, chestnut, plane trees, linden, and alders.

An average of 1,000 hectares of forest land is destroyed annually by fire.

#### Roads

Balikesir province contains 670 kilometers of all-weather macadam state roads and 88 kilometers of all-weather macadam and 47 kilometers of graded-earth provincial roads. There are 52 ten-meter-long bridges.

The grading of the Gonen-Balya road and the Samli-Ilica road (which form the Balikesir-Bandirma road) is about completed. During 1952, the Ucpinar and Yakup village roads were stabilized and a contract let for the grading of the Konakpinar village road. The 21-kilometer Balikesir-Soma road has been made passable all year round.

Among projects completed in various districts are the following: Gonen, stabilizing of the Gonen-Tutuncu road and the Alaeddin village road; Bandirma, stabilizing of the Bandirma-Sigirci road; Bigadic, stabilizing of the Yorukekler village road; Ayvalik, stabilizing of the Kucukkoy village road; and Ivrindi, stabilizing of the Kayapa and Ayakli village roads.

#### Education

Balikesir Province has many educational institutions; however, these are located chiefly in the cities and district centers. The villages have been neglected, partly because of their large number and wide distribution. There are schools in only 472 of the province's 914 villages.

In the city of Balikesir, there is a lycee, a normal school, a girls' institute, a commercial lycee, and a men's trade institute. There are secondary schools in Bandirma, Burhaniye, Edremit, Gonen, Manyas, Dursunbey, Susurluk, and Sindirgi; men's secondary trade schools are located in Bandirma, Edremit, and Ayvalik; and a village institute with 815 students is located at Savastepe.

Of the province's 101,986 children of school age, only 57,586 are attending school.

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Health

There is a 125-bed state hospital and a 100-bed tuberculosis hospital in Balikesir. Other health institutions in the province are as follows: Bandirma, a 25-bed municipal hospital; Edremit, a 25-bed municipal hospital and a 50-bed tuberculosis hospital; Ayvalik, a 25-bed health center; and 5-bed examination and treatment centers in Bigadic, Sindirgi, Burhaniye, Gonen, and Ayvalik.

Banking

The Ziraat (Agriculture), Is (Business), Emlak ve Kredi (Real Estate and Credit), Yapi ve Kredi (Construction and Credit), Ottoman, and Garanti banks are active in the province. The Ziraat Bank, for example, maintains branches in Balikesir, Ayvalik, Bandirma, and Edremit and agencies in Balya, Bigadic, Gonen, Manyas, Burhaniye, Sindirgi, and Susurluk. The Merkez (Central) Bank plans to open a branch soon in Balikesir.

The large number of banks is due to the province's richness and diversified economic activity. For example, monthly salaries and expenses of the various state establishments and offices amounts to more than one million lira. Also, the banks serve the needs of adjoining provinces; for example, in Canakkale, the Ziraat Bank branches receive credit requests which they pass on to the Emlak ve Kredi Bank in Balikesir.

Balikesir City

A fire last year completely destroyed the city's market section. With government help, much of the area has been rebuilt; the first phase was completed in June and the second in September. The new buildings help to give Balikesir a modern appearance.

The city has drawn up a development plan under Mayor Faik Ocak, but lack of revenue prevents implementation of the plan. Sewers are inadequate. The water supply is pumped from Kaynarca, 6 kilometers away, and is both insufficient and the most costly in the country; it costs the city  $51\frac{1}{2}$  kurus per cubic meter and naturally somewhat more for the people. Plans call for meeting the needs with water from the Bicki Stream at Cataldag, which is 45 kilometers away. Like most cities of Anatolia, the electric supply is also inadequate. Two new diesel generator groups have been ordered and a hydroelectric installation planned. Of the present four generators, three are worn out.

The city's 1952 budget, which totals more than a million lira, calls for, among other things, construction of a market building, a gasworks, a cold-storage depot, and various roads. In conjunction with a building cooperative, the city will build 74 new homes.

The city has ten first-class hotels. Ozel Palas, Izmir, Halk, Balikesir Palas, Merkez, Icil Palas, Ege, Ankara, Yesil Bursa, and Zumrut Palas. There are also six second-class and eight third-class hotels.

Ayvalik

Until after World War I, Ayvalik was to all intents and purposes a Greek colony. It had a privileged administration, and the only Turkish-language school had only 13-14 students, all children of officials. An imperial firman even forbade Turks to live in the town. The town's population completely changed after the exchange of populations was carried out by Greece and Turkey. The new population was composed of people from the island of Lesbos (75 percent), from Crete (20 percent), and the remainder from various other places.

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 At one time, Ayvalik was the center of a flourishing leather business, importing hides from abroad and exporting finished products. This industry died out after the exchange of populations. Milling has died out, as has also the export of dried octopus, of which 1,500,000 kilograms were sold to Greece annually. At one time, the town was a smuggling center, the ships receiving signals from monasteries built on hills in the vicinity.

At one time, Ayvalik was a port city, but the narrow channel now keeps out large ships. The town hopes that the Ports Administration will undertake to widen and deepen the channel.

For 4 years, Ayvalik had a poor olive crop, a fair one last year, but finally a normal one this year, which enabled growers to pay off their debts. The Ziraat Bank is extending credits for the planting of new trees.

The town has embarked on a development plan of which one of the main objectives is the widening of the present extremely narrow streets; the main avenue is to be 16 meters wide. Expropriation proceedings have already been started in connection with the plan.

The town's water supply comes from a source 11 kilometers away.

There are three banks in the town, with total deposits of 2 million lira.

#### Edremit

Olive growing constitutes the chief occupation of this district; there are 2,500,000 olive trees. Cotton production is increasing, especially of the best Akala type; fruit and honey are other important products. The growing of tomatoes is also becoming increasingly important.

The district has 22 olive-oil plants and three soap factories.

The Derman hot springs, located between Edremit and Burhaniye, are an important tourist attraction. A hotel and casino have been built there since 1936 with the help of the villages of Altinoluk, Avilar, Bostanei, Gure, Inonu, Kizilkeci, Kurukdere, Nasli, Sekviran, and Zeytinli.

#### Erdek District

This district, situated on the shores of the Sea of Marmara, has a population of 18,334. The annual olive crop varies between 5 and 8 million kilograms a year. Large amounts of granite paving blocks and marble are produced; 22 marble and 24 granite quarries are in operation. Sponges and fruit are other products of the province. Silkworm growing has developed to a slight extent. Fish constitute one of its main exports, the chief customers being Greece and Italy. Salted fish are exported to the interior of Turkey.

There are 20 islands off Erdek and attached to Erdek District. The subdistrict center is Marmara, the largest island in Greek territorial waters. The other three inhabited islands are Pasa Limani, Avsa, and Araplar. The whole subdistrict today has a population of about 5,000 as compared to 30,000 before World War I. At one time, the islands were a center of fishing, fruit and vegetable growing, and lumbering. Now economic conditions are very bad.

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